What is claimed is:

1. A method of decoding an encoded video signal, the method comprising:

receiving coded data representing frames of a video signal;

examining said coded data to detect header data and picture data;

when an error in the picture header is detected, storing the picture data in a temporary picture data store, detecting a repeat of the header data; and decoding the stored picture data using the repeated header data.

2. A method of decoding according to claim 1 wherein the step of detecting a repeat of header data comprises:

ascertaining whether subsequently received data relates to an entire frame of the video signal or to an incomplete part of a frame and detecting a repeat of header data when the received data relates to an incomplete part of a frame.

3. A method of decoding according to claim 1 wherein the step of detecting a repeat of header data comprises:

ascertaining whether subsequently received data includes a picture header and further data, which further data signifies that a frame of the video signal is unaltered with respect to a reference frame of the video signal and, if so, determining that a repeat of the header data has been detected.

4. A method of decoding according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the step of detecting a repeat of header data is carried out each time data is stored in the temporary picture data store.

5. A method of decoding according to any preceding claim wherein the step of detecting the repeated header data comprises examining the picture

header of a subsequent frame to determine whether the picture header of the subsequent frame includes data relating to the picture header of a previous frame and, if so, detecting the repeat of the picture header.

6. A method according to any of claims 5 wherein the step of detecting the repeated data comprises examining the Supplemental Enhancement Indicator (SEI) of the header of a subsequent frame.

7. A method of video encoding comprising:

receiving a video signal to be encoded;

encoding data representing a frame of said video signal;

repeating part, but not all, of said data, said repeated part including the picture header for the frame.

8. A method of encoding according to claim 7 wherein part of the data is repeated only for frames which are coded in an INTRA-frame manner.

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9. A method of encoding according to claims 7 or 8 wherein the repeated data comprises a picture header and a first segment of picture data of the frame.

10. A method of encoding according to any of claims 7 or 8 wherein said repeated data consists of a picture header and an indicator that no picture data has altered since a previous frame.

11. A method of encoding according to any of claims 7 to 10 wherein the step of repeating header data comprises adding the repeated data to the picture header of a subsequent frame.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein the repeated data is included in the Supplemental Enhancement Indicator (SEI) of a subsequent frame.

13. A video encoder comprising:

an input for receiving a video signal to be coded;

means for encoding data representing a frame of said video signal;

the means for encoding data being arranged to repeat part, but not all, of said data, said repeated part including the picture header for the frame.

14. A video decoder for decoding an encoded video signal, the decoder comprising:

an input for receiving coded data representing frames of a video signal;

decoding means for examining said coded data to detect header data and picture data;

said decoder being arranged to store the picture data in a temporary picture data store when an error in the picture header is detected, to detect a repeat of the header data; and to decode the stored picture data using the repeated header data.

15. A wireless communications device incorporating an encoder according to claim 13.

16. A wireless communications device incorporating an decoder according to claim 14.

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17. A video codec comprising an encoder according to claim 13 and a decoder according to claim 14.

add a5